



July 16, 1999

Theodore J. Kaczynski
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Dear Ted,

This letter is in further reference to my letters about ..

I just got off the phone with her and I am now thoroughly convinced that she is 100% okay. I still think there may be some judgment issues with regard to the pie story I told you and with regard to her discretion in a more general sense, but I particularly like her more and more with each conversation. She is a genuinely nice person, an honest person, and a smart one to boot!

She called to tell me that she spoke with Derrick about the possibility of a future meeting between him and you. She is very conscientious, since she had no cause to get in touch with Derrick other than to further the cause of getting accurate information about you out to as many people as possible. I now begin to understand that she can play a very positive role in the project I have all along envisioned: setting the record straight about Ted Kaczynski for all posterity.

I may have been an overzealous/protective ombudsman by sending you a copy of the interview. I feel that it is part of my job to give you all possible information and that is why I sent it to you (i.e., it let you see what was in the works and, at the same time, gave you the chance to review my involvement, etc.). Let me know if I should continue to send all possible information.

Theresa just told me that she has withdrawn the interview in order to compile all of the interview material (including the two scheduled presently). Sounds good to me, but I feel that she may be embarrassed about the material that I forwarded on to you, since she does not know that I sent you a copy. (She may know, because I told her about the Hossli correspondence and at that time told her that I send you everything.) For my part, I didn't realize that she might withdraw the interview, and assumed it would run in the July 20 issue. I also thought that you might be able to better organize the interview (since she has not done very many interviews) for the second meeting were you to have some idea of her project. She is certainly going to have a lot of material. Normally, an interview (whether for print or audio/visual media) takes about an hour – two at the most.

Derrick has offered to help her organize the huge amount of material. For what it is worth, I thought she portrayed you in a very strong light, although I would have preferred a more in-depth discussion of specific issues – if you felt comfortable, discussion (in the third person) of the Unabomber manifesto, actions, trial, et al. I know that this may not be possible.

On to the work that I have before me. I am making all of the changes to the page proofs of *Truth versus Lies* personally. They will be finished by Monday. We still do not have clear indication of the remaining work to do with regard to sections that need rewriting. Miller has talked to Denvir about the segregated material. Denvir said that he would call for confirmation from you (even though we referred him to the March letter (#132) that you specified. He said that he needed you to tell him unequivocally to release the documents to Miller. Miller will not show the material to me, nor do I personally need to see it. He has researched the matter and knows that he does not need to be your lawyer to review the material, and that such representation would represent a conflict of interest.

Denvir said that he had written to you about the matter and has not heard back from you. I hope that he will not create a further delay after he receives the unequivocal request from you, and frankly have difficulty understanding/mistrust his will to delay.

I have not received a response to my second letter to your brother and mother. Bisceglie is out of town. I think they are waiting to hear from him. Miller called Bisceglie's office earlier this week to let him know that I had written a letter that suggested they would be better off granting permission. I have had an annoying week. I can tell you that there may be a little Linda P. in Mello's wife. She has made plans for travel to interviews needlessly difficult and expensive. But it's better not to dwell on it, I suppose.

I hope this note finds you well.

Yours,
Beau.

P.S: I have been a little slow on the up-take about the Spanish-English dictionary (Item #54). If you want me to send you a defrocked copy, let me know the edition and it is as good as done.

Enclosed article from NYT:
I thought you might find
it interesting to hear Mr.
Wallace complain of mis-
representation. Melissa
sent this letter to the
editor of NY Press.

B.

Smart Bomber

SINCE I DO NOT consider myself among the "greens, luddites and technophobes," John Strausbaugh would have me believe that I am unique in my finding the Unabomber's manifesto not to be "the ramblings of a madman" ("Publishing," 6/23).

Think back. Many people were surprised by the intelligence, rather than by the insanity, displayed by the then-anonymous murderer/author of the manifesto. The media have proven themselves to be cowardly and counterprogressive by labeling Kaczynski as simply a madman. As Michael Mello asserts, "There is something comforting in the notion that the Unabomber is a 'mad bomber'... If he is crazy, then we don't need to pay attention to his ideas." An ideologue/murderer is indeed something most people would find far more terrifying than a mad bomber—and as such, Kaczynski should be compared to Baader-Meinhof, the Symbionese Liberation Army and, to stretch the point, Mao, Pinochet, Castro, et al.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about the article was Mike Gorman's illustration of a crazed, exposed Kaczynski awkwardly dangling in a position that only a moron or a lunatic would deem possibly lethal. NY Press has followed the well-trodden path of others who have dismissed Kaczynski as an insane nincompoop. The result: NY Press cannot address issues and ideas that may possibly have some significance for the times in which we live. If the point of the illustration was to be outrageous, it would have been far more provocative and profound to portray Kaczynski as sane, thereby focusing on the absurdity of a society that willfully conflates radical activism with madness.

MELISSA BREYER, Brooklyn

I'm not her keeper.

— interesting right/left
conflation.

I like this.

P.S.: Please excuse my
compulsive editorializing.